

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



## Air Power

Quote of the Week

“Because of its surface limitations and its superior speed, the airplane is the offensive weapon par excellence.”

—Gen. Guilio Douhet

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Sept. 13, 2002



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis, Laughlin game warden, affixes a safety device to one of his hunting rifles. The 47th Flying Training Wing commander encourages all those who plan on hunting this season to exercise safety.

## Safety stressed as base hunting season begins

By Senior Airman Brad Pettit  
Editor

If Laughlin's security posture returns to Force Protection Condition Alpha, the base will open its grounds for hunting Sept. 21.

Hunting on base is authorized for active-duty and retired military people, Department of Defense civilian employees and their families, and other federal employees in the local area.

Authorized people wanting to hunt on base must have a valid Texas hunting license for the type of game they wish to hunt and a base-hunting permit, said Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis,

Laughlin game warden.

Base permits can be obtained from Sergeant Davis, while hunting licenses are available at the Base Exchange and most hardware and sporting goods stores. In addition, all people born on or after Sept. 2., 1971, must take a hunter education course in order to hunt in Texas. For a listing of classes to be held in the local area, logon to [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/hunt.htm](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/hunt.htm).

Sergeant Davis will hold a meeting at 8 p.m. Sept. 20 in the Enlisted Heritage Hall for those wishing to hunt on

**See 'Hunting,' page 4**

## FP Con changes

Laughlin's security posture is upgraded to Force Protection Condition Bravo due to an increased risk of terrorist activity.

Base people should remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the law enforcement desk at 298-5100.

The current uniform policy will remain in effect.

## 87th FTS performs flyover at Dolphins opener

By 1st Lt. Paula Kurtz  
Public affairs chief

Laughlin gained national media attention recently when 87th Flying Training Squadron members performed a flyover for the Miami Dolphins' opening game at Pro Player Stadium in Miami Sept. 8.

Planning for the event began back in July when the Dolphins' special events coordinator, Jeff Griffith, called Maj. Mark Bennett, 87th assistant director of operations, to make the request.

“We had been scheduled to fly over during opening game ceremonies last year, but because of the Sept. 11

**See 'Flyover,' page 9**



Photo by 1st Lt. Paula Kurtz

The 87th Flying Training Squadron Red Bulls are greeted by Miami Dolphins fullback Rob Konrad and cheerleaders on arrival at U.S. Coast Guard Station Opa Locka Sept. 6.

## The inside Scoop

### Viewpoints:

The 47th Flying Training Wing safety chief explains how safety is everybody's business.

**Page 2**

### News:

Members of the 87th Flying Training Squadron conduct a flyover at an National Football League game.

**Page 4**

### Mission status:

(As of Aug. 27)  
Days ahead (+) or behind (-)  
T-37 +3.0  
T-1 +.8  
T-38 +.48

## Countdown to ORI:

**12 weeks**



## Commanders' Corner

By Maj. Russ Mack  
47th Flying Training Wing safety chief

### Safety is everybody's business

As the new 47th Flying Training Wing safety chief and new Del Rio resident, my family and I would like to take the opportunity to say that it is a pleasure to be part of Team XL! We look forward to the opportunity of making what I believe to be the best safety program in the Air Education and Training Command even better.

With that said, my perspective on safety is simple: "Safety is everybody's business." As the safety chief, my job is to oversee the mishap prevention program for the wing commander, ensuring each organizational commander integrates safety into all wing operations and missions, as well as emphasizing operational risk management and accountability.

This sounds easy enough, but the task is larger than you may think. The safety organization at Team XL is a well-trained, highly experienced group of men and women whose number one purpose is to ensure the mission at Laughlin is accomplished safely and smartly.

We can't do it alone. We need everyone to pitch in to the fight and apply good common sense to both on- and off-duty activities. If everyone took this simple approach, my job would be the easiest one in the Air Force and the 47th FTW probably wouldn't need a safety staff.

Unfortunately, that isn't the case. And the elimination of our safety staff won't happen anytime soon because people continue to commit unsafe acts due to a poor evaluation of the risks and not thinking through the consequences.

To date, the Air Force has experienced a 50 percent increase in off-duty fatalities from 2001 and a 25 percent increase during the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign alone. Team XL is not exempt from these statistics and has seen a 37 percent increase in off-duty mishaps over last year. The most disturbing thing about these statistics is that a majority of them could have been prevented.

As Air Force members, we all know not to drink and drive, to obey posted speed limits and to buckle up

(it's the law). Unfortunately, common factors in a majority of the above mentioned mishaps involved at least one if not all three: speed, alcohol or no seat belts.

As commanders, we need to continue to be involved. Comply with Air Force instructions, local directives and operating procedures, identify and report hazards in the work area, use operational risk management to mitigate potential risks both on- and off-duty, and inform your supervisor of any job-related injury that may impact your job performance.

There is no substitute for good common sense and judgment. As leaders, we need to mentor these skills to our team; as members, we all need to practice them. Apply it to everything you do and make safety "Your Business."

I look forward to the task at hand and the opportunity to meet each and every one of you. I can honestly say I have the best job in the Air Force and, as always, Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in all we do.

## Rising 6

By Tech. Sgt. David Drotts  
47th Flying Training Wing  
Manpower and Organizations management analyst

### Cub Scouts teach base children valuable lessons

In a recent issue of the publication *Boy Scouts of America: Operation Tiger Mania*, an article quoted a study that indicates our nation's youth are struggling with ethical and moral decisions, and that these difficulties can only increase with age.

According to the article: "There is a battle of significant consequence taking place in the lives of boys in America today. In simple terms, it is the battle between doing what is right

or wrong. A recent study conducted by Louis Harris & Associates indicates that the proportion of boys choosing to do what is wrong is alarmingly high. Even basic values such as not cheating on schoolwork and not stealing seem to be unstable."

To me, the article makes obvious the need for reinforcing and rewarding strong moral standards and providing positive role models at a young

age. Cub scouting satisfies this need. It creates a climate of cooperative and collaborative relationships among adult leaders, parents and children. This relationship provides opportunities for children to acquire the capacity for accomplishment in a program that affirms to our children that the world really is an interesting place. And, of course, Cub scouting is fun

See 'Scouts,' page 3



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#### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

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Submissions can be e-mailed to:  
bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil  
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***"Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our  
standard."***

**– 47th FTW motto**



# Servicemembers' vote counts

By Tech. Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.,  
81st Training Wing Public Affairs

The 2000 presidential election is still fresh in my mind, and I look forward to the privilege of voting in the 2002 midterm election.

Voting in the upcoming election determines the course of our nation as we fight the war on terrorism. Our participation is crucial, since active voters seem narrowly split in their political views these days.

As servicemembers, we can't be discouraged by the scuffle of the last presidential election – especially the attempts to have absentee ballots thrown out due to technicalities. This only serves to tell us how important our absentee ballots are.

Of course, in performing our duties we're politically neutral. We're all obligated to serve whomever our society as a whole deems fit. But servicemembers defend and cherish our freedoms in a time when evil people might attack in the most unthinkable ways.

It's our responsibility to make an educated vote. We should learn as much as we can about candidates and key issues from as many sources as possible. Personally, I don't rely solely

on television.

Several years ago, I took a college course on American government, and since then I've continued to learn as much as possible about our nation's issues and how politics affects the military. I've voted in both presidential and midterm elections, and I've never taken the privilege for granted. I encourage everyone to do the same.

I've spoken to some military members who have a grim view of politics, and that leaves them discouraged to vote at all. When we don't vote, we submit to whatever special interest groups and

other active voters decide. My government class instructor called this "tacit consent." Sometimes by not saying "No," we say "Yes."

Other people only vote in presidential elec-

tions, but not in the mid-term elections where other congressional seats are up for grabs. Our senators and representatives have considerable power as part of our "checks and balances" system. As the 2002 midterm elections approach, military voters should have their voices heard there as well.

I ask my fellow servicemembers to learn the issues and actively take part in our nation's political process. Our votes count, and they affect the future of our nation and its military.

***"It's our responsibility to make an educated vote. We should learn as much as we can about candidates and key issues from as many sources as possible."***

## 'Scouts,' from page 2

with a purpose. Woven through all the fun is an inspired program that transfers traditional values, builds character and develops leadership skills – all in the context of fun and family togetherness.

What is Cub scouting? In short, Cub scouting is a family-centered program for boys in the first through fifth grade, designed to instill strong moral values, build character, fitness and confidence, develop citizenship and leadership skills ... all within the framework of fun activities.

Cub scouting is boys and their families working together in a quality time-tested program.

Cub scouting offers opportunities to develop new interests and skills, participate in sports and competitive activities and gain confidence, self respect and a sense of belonging.

Cub scouting teaches "duty to God and country" and service to others, a foundation of good citizenship. Patriotism also plays a significant role in preparing our children to become useful and participating citizens.

The Boy Scouts of America believes that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without also recognizing an obligation to God, and encourages both youth and adult leaders to be faithful in their religious duties. Cub scouting provides

positive role models to guide boys in making ethical choices and developing strong values.

How can you get involved? Cub Scout Pack 204 is chartered by the Concerned Families of Laughlin, and we are dedicated to providing fun with a purpose to your children. As Cub Scout leaders and parents, we have both the responsibility and opportunity to positively influence a boy's development by providing a quality fun-filled program.

If you would like your sons to be involved in this worthwhile program or would like to volunteer your time as a den leader, call Greg Dennis at 298-2065 or Tech. Sgt. David Drotts at 298-3475.

## Actionline

298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.



**Col. Dan Woodward**  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander

## Indoor playgrounds

**Comment:** I have a suggestion. We are about three weeks from PCSing and taking our 17-month-old daughter with us. As she is getting more and more active, I'm realizing the need for an indoor playground area at this base, especially with this heat. Playgrounds on base are mainly geared for children over 2 years old, so the under 2-year-old parental crowd is expected to exercise our children within our own homes. I realize there is a base play group one day a week at the Fiesta Center. I don't feel this is adequate time for children to be physically stimulated. I've let my child play in different grassy areas, and it's either too hot or burrs and stickers get on her.

**Answer:** Thank you for bringing this issue forward. I want you to know that the safety of our children while living on Laughlin is a high priority with me. We have many playgrounds throughout our housing area for the convenience of our families. The high summer temperatures in Del Rio make any outdoor activity difficult. I have tasked my civil engineers to explore ideas to enhance outdoor activities during the hot season, to include the proposal to install shade structures over various playgrounds on base. Our Services Division also offers the weekly play group for the 2-year-old age group. Beyond that, the Fiesta Center may be reserved for activities that you or another patron wishes to coordinate. Again, thank you for your comments. Together we can continue to make Laughlin a great place for our families.

**Do the world a favor and recycle this newspaper.**

## Medical group closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 and Nov. 21. The training is essential to maintain the medical group's ability to respond to mission and wartime requirements.

During the designated training times:

- The pharmacy will be closed. Please plan to pick up any prescriptions or refills before 12:30 p.m. or the following day.
- Afternoon dental and medical sick call will not be available.
- The Nurse Triage Line will not be available.
- The Tricare Service Center will be open.

If you require any medical treatment during this time, pursue it as if it were a weekend or holiday:

- If you have a medical emergency, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room.
- For other care, call 1-800-406-2832

For details, call Capt. Dawnita Parkinson at 298-6309.

## Customer service closure

The Military Personnel Flight customer service office will close at 3 p.m. Sept. 20 for a commander's call.

For more information, call 298-5276 or 5277.

## ORI preparation

Are you conducting safety inspections on a re-occurring basis? Are you documenting safety inspections and briefings? Are you providing your workers a safe environment to perform their duties? Are Air Force Forms 55 properly documented? Have you checked your hazardous material storage, handling and disposal program?

# Newslines

Have you looked in your storage sheds lately? Do supervisors conduct pre-departure safety briefings for military personnel under the age of 26 before departure on leave, TDY or PCS? Are the pre-departure safety briefings documented on an Air Education and Training Command Form 29B? Is job safety and occupational health training for each newly assigned worker conducted? Are unit safety monitors aggressively briefing the requirement for seat belt usage?

These are some of the questions that every unit should ask to prepare for the coming Operational Readiness Inspection.

Another item to be assessed in the upcoming inspector general inspection is software license management. Just like computer hardware, computer software must be accounted for and tracked from the day it is installed on a computer until the day it is removed or replaced. According to AFI 33-114, each Laughlin organization must appoint a unit software license manager who will work with the base software license manager to inventory and maintain software licenses.

Has your unit appointed a USLM and, if so, is the appointment letter current? Do you know who your unit software license manger is?

For more information, call Robert Zerlout at 298-5703.

## Cub Scouts

The season for Laughlin's Cub Scout Pack No. 204 begins Sept. 23. Meetings will be held every Monday at the Chapel Fellowship Hall. All military and civilian families with first through fifth grade boys are welcome to join the pack.

For details, call Greg Dennis at 298-2065 or Tech. Sgt. David Drotts at 298-3475.

## Screening and luncheon

The osteoporosis screening and luncheon for Sept. 6 has been canceled. It is rescheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 27 at Club XL.

For more information, call the Health and Wellness Center at 298-6464.

## Job opportunity

The U.S. Customs Service has many opportunities available for motivated individuals looking for an exciting and challenging career. Some of these include positions as inspectors, canine enforcement officers, criminal investigators and pilots, just to name a few.

If you would like to learn more, a mini job fair will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Sept. 26 in the Family Support Center conference room. A United States customs recruiter will be on hand to answer questions.

If you would like to attend, R.S.V.P. by calling 298-5620 by 4:30 p.m. Sept. 20. Space is limited.

## Heritage breakfast

A free Hispanic heritage breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Monday at the Fiesta Center.

For more information, call Belia Stewart at 298-5291.

## Firing, trap/skeet ranges

The base firing range and skeet and trap range will be closed will Laughlin is in Force Protection Condition Bravo.

For details, call 298-5100.

### 'Hunting,' from page 1

base. This meeting is for small-game hunting permits and safety briefings only. Hunters must present a valid Texas resident, special-resident or non-resident hunting license, combination hunting/fishing license and a valid military, Department of Defense, Air Force or Air Education and Training Command identification card in order to receive a hunting permit. Permits are available for \$5.

"As the deer archery and gun season approach, additional hunting permit and safety meetings will be held with dates to be determined," said Sergeant Davis.

Sergeant Davis encouraged base people to be mindful of hunting areas.

"All hunting areas will be clearly marked off with signs," he said. "Safety is very important, and people should be aware of their surroundings and not venture into the hunting areas for the purpose of jogging, biking or horseback riding. The area for those activities is the wooded area from the main gate westward to the west gate."

For more information about base hunting, call Staff Sgt. Frank Munderback at 298-5860 or Sergeant Davis at 298-5456.

Listed are the scheduled dates for specific game hunting:

- Regular dove season begins Sept. 21 and runs until Nov. 3. There is a second dove season from Dec. 21 to Jan. 10. The bag limit during both seasons is 12. This can be a combination of white-winged, morning or white-tipped doves.
  - Quail season is from Oct. 27 to Feb. 23. Shooting hours are from sunrise to sunset. The bag limit is 15 per day.
  - Rio Grand turkey seasons are from Nov. 2 to Feb. 3 and April 5 to May 11. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to official sunset. The bag limit is two (either sex during the fall and gobbler only during the spring).
  - Special deer season (those using bows) is from Sept. 28 to Oct. 27. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset.
  - Normal deer season is from Nov. 2 to Jan. 19. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset.
  - Special antlerless season is from Jan. 20 to Feb. 2. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after official sunset.
- The deer bag limit for all hunting seasons on Laughlin is five, with no more than three bucks.

Air Force striving to get airmen paid right

More than a year after a new personnel data system began to trigger an “unacceptable” number of pay problems, Air Force leaders have appointed a “pay czar” and mobilized personnel and finance people to fix and prevent pay problems.

A recent success: ensuring more than 150 new retirees – some just released from Stop-Loss – received their first retirement paychecks Sept. 1.

“It’s the kind of thing we’re getting a lot better at catching before it happens, but it’s still amazingly complicated to fix,” said Dave Ashton, a career personnelist who is back at the Randolph Air Force Base Air Force Personnel Center after a 30-year active-duty career.

In June, the AFPC commander asked him to drop what he was doing to become the “personnel pay czar.” Ashton accepted the challenge and now acts as the center’s liaison to the air staff, installation personnel and finance offices, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, where all pay transactions ultimately take affect.

His task is to find problems, fix them, and find ways to get bad data out of the system before it does more damage to airmen’s pay.

Military pay is complicated, said Ashton. Airmen receive allowances and bonuses that vary depending on such things as number of years in the service, qualifying bonuses and term of enlistment, Ashton said.

Pay problems range from people getting paid the wrong amounts to people having to receive pay “manually” instead of through standard electronic transfers directly into bank accounts.

One way to prevent pay problems before they happen is to detect disagreements between an airman’s finance and personnel records. Officials estimate data mismatches may affect up to 40,000 airmen.

Individuals can help themselves by reviewing their monthly leave and earning statements, said Ashton. “That’s something everyone should always do, every month.”

But Air Force officials do not want to depend on airmen policing their own records.

“We want to prevent most of those errors from ever occurring,” he said.

“We’re dedicated to catching these problems as soon as possible because airmen deserve the best pay support we can provide,” said Bruce Lemkin, the Air Force’s second-highest ranking financial manager and co-chair of the Personnel and Pay Council.

Chartered by the secretary of the Air Force, the council guides Air Force pay improvement efforts.

“As a result of newly focused teamwork at all levels, the problems are becoming narrower in scope and easier to identify and fix,” said Lemkin.

One of the council’s visions is to initiate “one-stop customer service,” which means airmen will no longer have to do the legwork carrying issues between personnel and finance offices, he said.

“We’re going to take the problem and send the person home assured that we will pass the issue among the relevant offices for them...and keep them updated,” Lemkin said.

“It’s not their fault their pay record is not correct,” said Ashton. “We shouldn’t make it their burden to find the person that can fix it.”

Extra training, increased communication, and “just plain hard work from a lot of our bases and the people here and in the finance world” will get things back on track, he said.

“We’re still fighting to get to where the systems share the right information,” said Ashton.

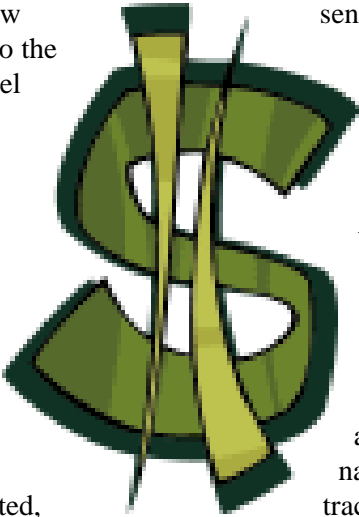
As a forerunner to the one-stop shopping vision, Ashton recently distributed a database that will help support “virtual” one-stop customer service. The program was sent to every Air Force base serving as an interim step until a central database, still under development, can be delivered, he said.

No single initiative can fix everything, Ashton said.

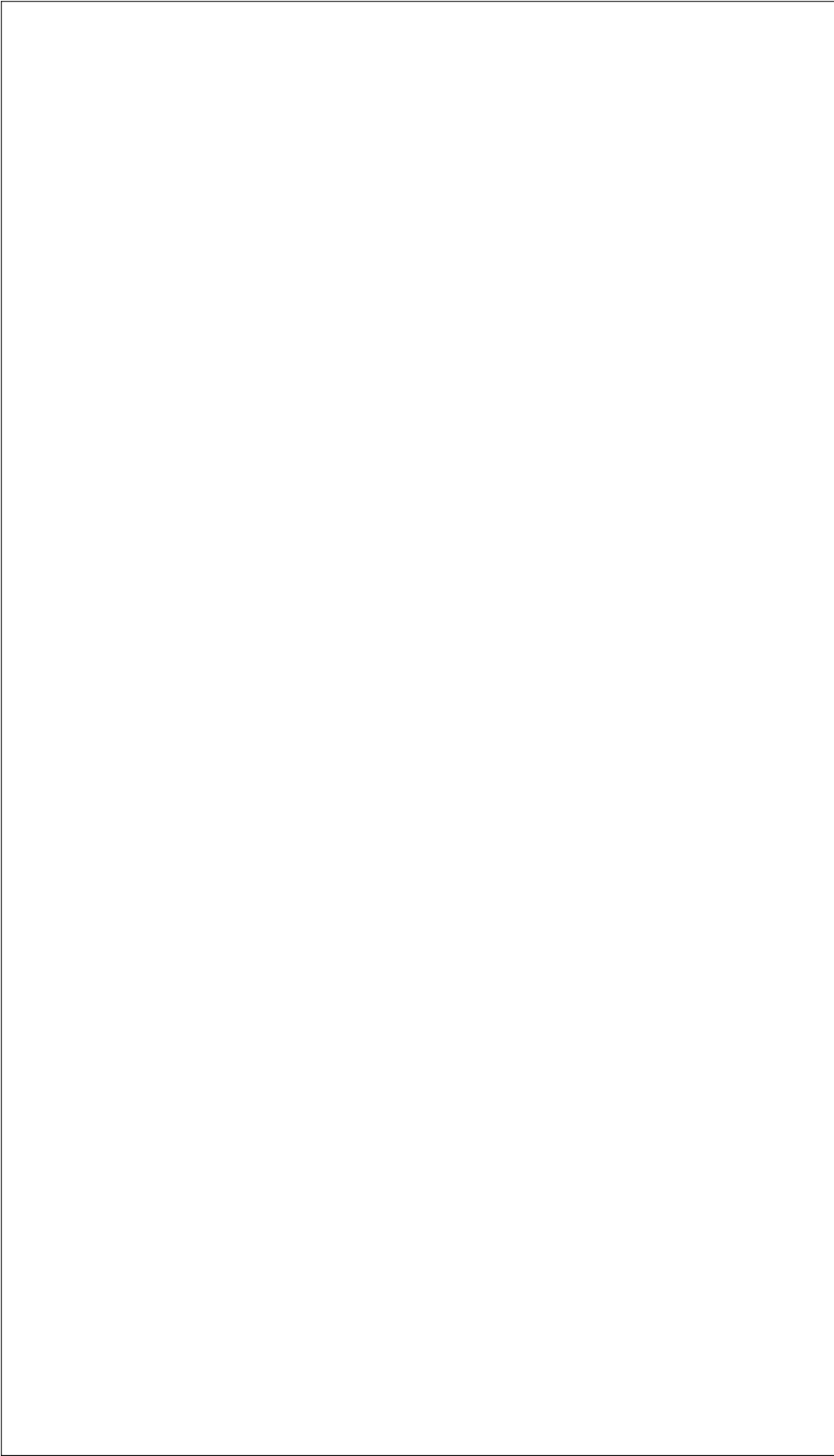
Sometimes it comes down to persistence, as it did with the 150 retirees who almost did not get paid.

“For that, it was just a matter of our retirements team here talking to a whole lot of people in a number of organizations and insisting on getting the system to do the right thing,” said Ashton. “Because it’s the right thing to do.”

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)



**If you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.**



**Tricare Prime reimbursement benefits available to some**

Tricare Prime beneficiaries other than active-duty members enrolled at the Laughlin clinic may be eligible for travel expense reimbursement for themselves and for one nonmedical attendant accompanying them when they are referred for non-emergency, medically necessary specialty treatment more than 100 miles away.

To qualify for reimbursement for their travel expenses, non active-duty Tricare Prime members – active-duty family members, retirees, retiree families and others – must fill out a request form prior to travel. Patients may be reimbursed for actual travel expenses (up to the government rate) to include fuel, oil, highway, bridge and tunnel tolls and parking fees. Reimbursement of actual expenses is also authorized, within government limits, for other expenses related to travel, such as lodging (including taxes and service charges) and the cost of meals (including taxes and tips, but not alcoholic beverages).

Beneficiaries will be required to fill out a request form and provide it, along with a copy of their referral, to the BOBS Flight at the Laughlin clinic prior to their departure. They will then need to fill out and submit a travel voucher within five days of completing their travel in order to be reimbursed for their expenses.

Travel reimbursement may also be authorized for one nonmedical attendant to accompany a Tricare Prime patient referred for such medically necessary specialty care. The traveling Prime patient’s Primary Care Manager must determine that a nonmedical attendant is necessary and appropriate.

The nonmedical attendant must be a parent or guardian of the patient, or another adult member of the patient’s family. A parent or guardian is not required to be age 21 or older, but if the attendant is another adult family member, he or she must be at least 21. The nonmedical attendant is not required to be enrolled in Tricare Prime or be eligible for Tricare.

If the nonmedical attendant is an active-duty member or a Department of Defense civilian employee, he or she is entitled to temporary duty assignment allowances (per diem and mileage), not actual expenses. If the nonmedical attendant is a civilian not employed or affiliated with DOD, he or she is authorized reimbursement of actual expenses up to the government rate.

Tricare Prime travel reimbursement is retroactive to Oct. 30, 2000. Nonmedical attendant travel reimbursement is retroactive to Dec. 28, 2001.

For additional information, non-active duty Tricare Prime members should call a patient travel representative at 298-6320 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or the beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator at 298-6350 during the same times.

Prime members enrolled with a civilian provider should call their regional lead agent patient travel representative or BCAC. Telephone numbers and addresses for BCACs are available on the Tricare Web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).

**(Courtesy of the 47th Medical Group)**



Chapel  
Schedule



Catholic

- Saturday ● 5 p.m., Mass  
Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass  
● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall  
Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir  
Reconciliation ● By appointment  
Religious Education ● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Friday ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services  
Every day ● 12 to 1 p.m., sweet hour of prayer

Protestant

- Saturday ● 6 p.m., Singles Bible study  
Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school  
● 11 a.m., General worship  
● 6 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238 for details.  
Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study, children welcome  
● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

The X<sub>L</sub>er

**Hometown:** Roscoe, Texas  
**Family:** Husband, Ben; cats, Akasha and Mya  
**Time at Laughlin:** 2 years, 2 months  
**Time in service:** 2 years, 9 months  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Enrolling in college  
**Hobbies:** Studying and watching televised forensic case files  
**Bad habit:** Opening soda cans and leaving them half full  
**Favorite film:** *Hope Floats*  
**Favorite musician:** Alicia Keys  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My mother. She is one of the wisest women I know, and when I was 17 she was a little reluctant to sign consent forms allowing me to join the Air Force. She always tried to convince me that I was trying to grow up too fast. I’ve never really had the chance to sit down and thank her and let her know that I appreciate what she did.



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

Senior Airman Tracey Smith  
47th Medical Operations Squadron  
medical service journeyman

## Don't be fooled by telemarketing fraud

**By Terra Wade**

*47th Flying Training Wing legal office clerk*

A telemarketing fraud scheme often begins when you receive a postcard or letter in the mail describing an attractive offer, such as winning a free prize or getting rich quick. You are often told to call a 900 number or a toll-free 800 number.

If you are not sure if you should take advantage of the offer, remember the following tips:

- If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- If you hesitate or sound unsure to the swindler on the telephone, she will use high-pressure sales tactics to try to sway you.
- You may be told that the offer will expire soon and that a decision must be made immediately in order to take advantage. A telemarketer may also offer to send a delivery service to your home or office to pick up your check before you have a chance to think the offer over carefully.
- Thousands of offers are mailed out to consumers across the country, so do not believe it if a telemarketer tells you that you are among only a few people eligible for the offer.
- Your credit card number may be requested for "verification purposes." Never provide your credit card number or its expiration date if you are not making a purchase. Giving out your credit card number gives a swindler the opportunity to commit credit card fraud on your account.
- If you are told you have won a prize, do not deal with a telemarketer who tells you that you must purchase a minimum order of a product or pay shipping and handling charges in order to receive your prize.
- All investments have some risk, so any money-back guarantee a telemarketing swindler makes will not be honored.
- Always ask for details in writing before you commit to any offer. Be skeptical if you are told that written information will be sent to you after you pay.
- Be careful about trusting any stranger you talk to on the telephone.

By keeping these tips in mind, you can protect yourself from becoming a victim of telemarketing fraud.

If you suspect that you have been the victim of telemarketing fraud, visit the legal office during walk-in legal assistance hours every Tuesday from 3 to 4 p.m. and every Thursday from 8 to 9 a.m.

**If you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.**



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

### Splish, splash

Dana Capelli, family member, tries out a slide at the Friendship Pool. The Friendship Pool recently installed the new slide and equipment lockers. Pool winter hours are in effect: 6 to 8 a.m. for lap swimming and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. for general swimming Tuesday through Sunday. Two lap lanes are always open. For more information, call the Friendship Pool at 298-4194.



‘Flyover,’ from page 1

terrorist attacks, the National Football League wound up canceling the first weekend of games,” Major Bennett explained. “Jeff remembered us and called to see if we could do it this year, and we jumped at the chance.”

Bennett and 11 other instructor pilots departed Laughlin in six T-38 Talons Sept. 6, headed for U.S. Coast Guard Station Opa Locka, in Miami. Keeping a careful eye on a thunderstorm brewing in the gulf, the group made a quick stop at Gulfport, Miss., to refuel before arriving in Miami.

Upon landing, they were greeted by Dolphins’ starting fullback Rob Konrad, Dolphins cheerleaders and local area recruiters. Photographers from Miami’s local NBC and FOX news affiliates were also on hand for the arrival.

“It was definitely the best greeting I’ve had on arrival anywhere,” Bennett said with a grin.

Coverage of the arrival aired on the local Miami stations Friday and Saturday evenings.

After exploring the local area Saturday, the group rendezvoused at the hotel for a quick trip to the stadium where they would test their radios, run through the time line and lock down their GPS coordinates for their target area over the field.

On arriving, they were met by Griffith, who escorted them out to the 50-yard line, which was buzzing with activity. Singers were rehearsing, groundskeepers were painting the lines on the field, and television photographers were practicing their shots.

“Even with the stadium empty, seeing all of the activity really brought a lot of energy and excitement and anticipation for the actual

game,” Bennett said. “It really is a huge production, and to see it behind-the-scenes and how it is all put together on Sunday was really cool.”

Bennett recalled that being on the field was also when it started to hit home that his team really had an important job to do.

“We needed to come to town with our game faces on,” he explained. “We’ve got a job to do and we don’t want to let these guys down.”

Sunday morning started early with a crew meeting at the hotel. From there, the flyover crew, led by Maj. Darryl Parkinson, 87th assistant director of operations, departed for the ramp at Opa Locka. Major Bennett and 1st Lt. Ryan Freeman headed for the stadium, where Bennett would relay timing by cell phone to Freeman on top of the scoreboard, who was in contact with Major Parkinson via radio in the jets.

“We really couldn’t have done this without those two on the ground coordinating our timing,” Major Parkinson said. “They were giving us the countdown based on what was happening on the ground, and when it was over, we were over the target right on time.”

Originally scheduled as a four-ship formation, Parkinson and his team ran into equipment problems when they arrived at Opa Locka. The ground crew there didn’t have the right “start carts” needed to fire up the jets. Instead, they had a “bottle” of compressed air. They managed to get Parkinson’s jet started and one of the engines on the number-two jet before the “bottle” gave out.

“That’s when the team really pulled together to fix the problem,” said Parkinson. “Guys were jumping out of

aircraft trying to learn the ground crew’s job and get things fixed.”

Parkinson shouted instructions and directions from his cockpit where he was strapped in with engines running.

The team managed to get the second jet fully started, but with little time to make the scheduled flyover at the end of the national anthem. On the ground at the stadium, Major Bennett decided to give the “knock it off” call, realizing the guys couldn’t make the time over target that they needed.

With the initial flyover scrapped, the guys dug in and looked for an alternative plan. They decided to try it again at halftime.

The flight crew at Opa Locka began to track down the lost “start cart” in an effort to get things moving. After some searching, they located the cart in a locked hangar. Several phone calls later, they had the cart on the ramp and were able to fire up one jet before the cart broke.

“It was complete and utter frustration,” Parkinson said. “It’s completely disappointing when factors that you don’t control contribute to the failure of a mission.”

Refusing to give up, the guys kept plugging and finally got a second jet started. Deciding to make it a two-ship formation, the jets roared down the runway. Keeping in close contact with Major Bennett, who was running the timing “on the fly” based on rough estimates, the Red Bulls managed to get over the target right on time.

“I’m really proud of everyone,” Major Parkinson said. “The way everyone worked to get this accomplished was really incredible. We all just really wanted it to be a success, and I think we accomplished that.”

# Safety measures necessary to prevent fires

**By John Alexander**  
*47th Civil Engineer Squadron  
assistant fire prevention chief*

“Team up for fire safety,” is the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week to be recognized Oct. 6-12.

Effective fire safety depends on the teamwork of firefighters who head the fire safety team and the people who support it. If people would follow simple on-the-job fire safety practices, many of the nation’s annual 5,000 administrative building fires could be prevented, and the number of injuries would minimize.

Promote fire safety in the home and workplace by using the following procedures to eliminate fire hazards:

- Replace any electrical cord with cracked insulation or a broken connector.
- Do not plug one extension cord into another. Avoid plugging more than one extension cord into an outlet.
- Leave space for air to circulate

around heat-producing equipment such as copy machines and computer terminals.

- Keep appliances away from combustibles that might catch on fire.
- Designate an employee to turn off and/or unplug all appliances, such as coffee makers and hot plates at the end of each workday.
- Keep exits, storage areas and stairways free from waste paper, empty boxes, dirty rags and other fire hazards.

All employees should be aware of their surroundings – to include the whereabouts of every exit within the building and the nearest fire alarm. A safe evacuation plan should be communicated, and the facility manager should ensure appropriate procedures are in place with regular fire drills.

In the event of a fire, get to the nearest exit that is not blocked by fire. Test the door’s temperature before opening the door. If the door is



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Practicing fire prevention is necessary to ensure safety in the workplace. All offices that contain a coffee maker are encouraged to assign a person to unplug the machine at the end of every work day.

hot, use another escape route.

Once outside, move away from the building and out of the way

of firefighters.

For more information, call the fire prevention office at 298-5037.

# Precautions encouraged for protection against West Nile virus

**By Staff Sgt. Leslie Werlinger**  
*47th Medical Group public health NCOIC*

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the West Nile Virus was first detected in the United States in 1999 during an outbreak in New York. Since then, it has traveled west to Texas and, in mid-June, was found in two blue jays from Harris County.

There have been no positive WNV cases (human or bird) reported in Val Verde County, to include Laughlin. However, public health will continue to conduct mosquito surveillance on Laughlin and answer any questions you may have.

The WNV is spread by the bite of infected mosquitos. Mosquitoes are most active at dawn, dusk and in the early evening. The CDC stresses that anyone taking part in outdoor activities in Texas should take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

The following precautions are recommended

by the CDC in order to reduce your chances of becoming infected:

- o Wear long sleeves and pants outdoors.
- o Apply insect repellent sparingly to your skin and your clothes.
- o Whenever you use insect repellent, be sure to read and follow the directions for use.
- o Although it does not appear that a person can get WNV from handling live or dead infected birds, it would be wise to use gloves or double plastic bags when handling any dead animals, including birds.
- o Make sure tent openings have flaps and cabin doors and windows have screen to keep mosquitoes from entering.

According to the Texas Department of Health Zoonosis Control Division, although birds may be tested fo WNV, the only birds being accepted for

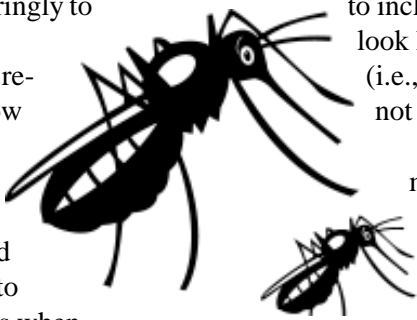
testing are adult blue jays, crows and hawks. The bird must be dead for no more than 24 hours.

Birds that are decomposed (rotten or decaying – to include infestation of bugs, ants, etc.) or look like they have died for other reasons (i.e., killed by a cat or hit by a car) will not be tested.

Laughlin residents should keep in mind that there are many reasons that birds can die, to include extreme temperatures that we commonly endure in southwest Texas.

However, if you notice a dead bird meeting the criteria listed above, call entomology at 298-5488. Entomology will determine the condition of the bird and make arrangements to submit it to local animal control, if appropriate.

For more information on the West Nile Virus, logon to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call public health at 298-6380.



**Interested in the Air Force? Call Del Rio’s Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.**



# Command post: *ready when disaster strikes*



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

Airman David Duran, 47th Flying Training Wing command post controller, fields a call at the command post Wednesday. The mission of the command post is to represent the wing commander 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**By Airman Yvonne Conde**  
*Staff writer*

Breaking news hit every television screen in America the morning of Sept. 11. As Americans helplessly watched a second plane crash into the Twin Towers, Laughlin's command post worked frantically to recall the commanders, who evaluate and employ all appropriate measures here.

The mission of the command post is to represent the wing com-

mander for a 24-hour period, said Tech Sgt. Rory Fleury, 47th Flying Training Wing command post superintendent.

"The command post is like the nervous system of the human body," said Sergeant Fleury. "It collects information and also disperses the information, but it has to go to the central point before it is dispersed accurately."

Located in a controlled area of the Laughlin Air Force Base head-

quarters building, command post personnel include the superintendent, the training NCO, and the controllers, who all work together to gather and relay vital information to unit commanders and higher-headquarters.

"We have to be prepared and expect anything," said Airman 1st Class Douglas Clark, 47th Flying Training Wing command post senior controller. "Regardless of the situation, we have to be able to handle it in a professional manner."

Before taking any incoming phone calls, the controllers go through a certification process, which requires security clearance, and a program to learn how to handle various phone calls.

"As controllers, we're like investigators," said Airman Clark. "We receive information from the police department, fire department or anyone who calls to report a situation, but if we don't receive all the required information, we need to explore and find the 'who, what, when and where' for the commanders."

The controllers work shifts, which means someone is on duty 24 hours a day every day of the year, said Sergeant Fleury.

The command post is also tasked with operator assistance after duty hours and support of the base fire department, security forces, control

tower and services. Controllers are primarily responsible for responding to every situation quickly and accurately.

The command post ensures there is one central point of information. This allows the wing commander to gain information from one source rather than different people with different information, said Sergeant Fleury.

"If something does happen, we have to be informed and the information is then passed to the wing commander, who will make the decisions based on the information we give," said Sergeant Fleury. "In the scheme of things, we just wait for something to happen and then we have to react."

The command post informs Air Force headquarters of Laughlin occurrences and relays higher-headquarters directive messages to the wing commander and his subordinate commanders, said Sergeant Fleury.

"As an airman, it can be stressful because the commanders have more knowledge about the base and military procedures," said Airman Clark. "But it feels good to know that we are capable of assisting the commanders, and we are doing whatever is necessary to answer any questions they may have. It provides opportunity to be a part of the mission here."

## Gas-n-go

An Air Force F-15 Eagle pilot tops off its tanks with help from a 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron KC-10 Extender on a mission supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



Photo by Capt. Tim White



# Personal trainers available to give fitness advice



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

Kathleen Barrett, 47th Services Division certified personal trainer, helps 1st Lt. Ryan Barrett, student pilot, properly perform a lower-back exercise at the XL Fitness Center Thursday.

**By Airman Yvonne Conde**  
*Staff writer*

Trained professionals are available to help Laughlin people improve their fitness and develop personal workout programs. A personal trainer provides expertise to assist individuals in designing safe and highly effective exercise programs, which also teach proper form, said Kathleen Barrett, 47th Services Division certified personal trainer. To safely achieve desired fitness results, anyone eligible to use on-base facilities is entitled to the benefits of professional fitness advice. Several XL Fitness Center people have received training in physical fitness and are available to those using the fitness center.

"I see people on a daily basis performing inappropriate exercises or exercises with poor form because a friend thought it was good advice," Barrett said. "Unfortunately, people realize it is not a good idea to listen to someone who is not a professional [only] after they have developed an injury." According to Barrett, even those who are knowledgeable of proper exercise techniques can benefit from a personal trainer. "Even a physically fit person can make improvements, said Barrett. "[A personal

trainer] personalizes a fitness plan to accommodate a client's goals, dedication and time constraints." According to Barrett, the desired results may be obtained, but the client must commit to hard work. The fitness plan, she said, depends on the fitness goals of the client and his or her current workout level. "I train them in the areas that need the most improvement and modify their programs to include additional training modules," she said. Because the leading cause of death in the United States is heart disease, regular exercise should be a major part of people's daily routines. Regular cardiovascular and resistance training improves your lifestyle and increases longevity, said Barret. "Unless you want a short life filled with medical complications, I suggest you get a fitness routine and stick to it," she said. "Regular exercise will change your whole life. You will notice changes mentally and physically. You will feel like a completely different person within a month [after beginning regular] exercise." For additional information on individual fitness advice, call the XL Fitness Center 298-5251.

## Sportslines

### Yoga classes

The health and wellness center is hosting prenatal yoga classes from noon to 1 p.m. Thursdays in the XL Fitness Center. The classes will include a 10-minute introduction and warm up, 20-minute yoga/stretch, 15-minute strengthening/muscle toning and 15-minute relaxation techniques. Classes are free. The instructor has certifications in prenatal fitness, power stretch and yoga. Participants should take comfortable clothing, a yoga mat, pillow and plenty of water to class. For more information, call the HAWC at 298-6464.

### Fun walk

A Breast Health Awareness Fun Run/Walk is scheduled for 8 a.m. Oct. 11 beginning and ending at the football field. Winners in the male and female category of the 5K run will receive a health and wellness center prize package. The first 75 registered runners will receive T-shirts. For more information, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251.



Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore

### NFL charity

Tanya Snyder, wife of Redskins owner Daniel M. Snyder, presents checks for \$700,000 to DoD Comptroller Dov Zakheim (far left), Army Emergency Relief Director Nathaniel R. Thompson Jr., and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Vice President George F. Warren during a Tuesday ceremony at the Pentagon.